

From: Benjamin Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:55pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti-trust trial

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing this to communicate my discontent with your current settlement agreement with Microsoft.

While it is clear that many issues of past misbehavior on the part of Microsoft have been considered and addressed, these measures are, in my opinion, insufficient to do any long term good.

Microsoft has long been under the watchful eye of the FTC and other government agencies for a good, long time now.

Even the fact that this anti-trust trial was underway did not stop Microsoft from using their newest software release, Windows XP, from being used to leverage their Monopoly to gain an advantage in a new market, a la MSN.

Not only does Microsoft not show any indication of slowing down, it seems they are only accelerating their efforts to use this leverage as fast as they can.

Their Instant Messaging software is integrated into the O/S to kill the AOL and Yahoo! instant messengers. Their media player is integrated into the O/S to have the same effect on Real Player.

And their Windows XP behaves similarly when somebody wants to sign up for Internet access through MSN.

As a web developer, I implore you to reconsider your recent agreement to settle with Microsoft.

You've already done the legal footpounding needed to demonstrate that Microsoft is a monopoly. You've already done the legal footpounding needed to demonstrate that they are in violation of a number of laws that restrain the actions of a Monopoly.

In short, you've all but won the fight already!

We're just waiting to determine what's the legal remedy for these unlawful acts.

To settle, at this point, reminds me very much of the cliché of the unarmed English policeman: "Stop! Or I shall say stop again!".

We've been saying "Stop!" to Microsoft for too long - it's time for a stiff,

effective remedy, and I honestly think that the move to breakup was right!

-Ben